

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1, 7-12, and 16-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 2-6 and 13-15 and add Claim 19 to read as follows.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An image pick ~~pickup~~ apparatus including an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter, and a filter unit, having a single density, for changing an amount of incident light, said image pickup apparatus being capable of ~~photographing with~~ changing over between a first mode of photographing for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode of photographing for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said image pickup apparatus comprising:

an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated, by changing an aperture diameter;

a filter unit, having a single density or a plurality of densities, for changing an amount of incident light;

a unit for driving said iris mechanism and said filter unit, independently; and

a control unit for setting, in the second mode, said filter unit in one of states of covering an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and of withdrawing from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in

photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which said filter unit covers all over the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism.

3. (Currently Amended) An image ~~pick~~ pickup apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from the ~~state of withdrawing~~ position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to the ~~state of covering the whole~~ position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter[[,]] when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be opened in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

4. (Currently Amended) An image ~~pick~~ pickup apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven ~~so as to withdraw from the state of covering~~ position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to the position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism[[,]] when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be closed up in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

5. (Currently Amended) An image pick pickup apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein capable of photographing with changing over a first mode for recording a plurality of
frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action;
comprising:

an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup
element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter;

a filter unit, having a plurality of densities, for changing an amount of light input;

a unit for driving said iris mechanism and said filter unit, independently; and

a said control unit ~~for performing~~ performs drive control of said filter unit so that said
filter unit is driven from the ~~state in which a first density area of~~ position at which the said filter
unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to ~~a state in which the~~
~~first density area of~~ the position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter
of said iris mechanism when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be
opened in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

6. (Currently Amended) An image pick pickup apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein capable of photographing with changing over a first mode for recording a plurality of
frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action;
comprising:

an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup
element is irradiated, by changing an aperture diameter;

a filter unit, having a plurality of densities, for changing an amount of incident light;
a unit for driving said iris mechanism and said filter unit, independently; and
a said control unit ~~for performing~~ performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from the ~~state in which a first density area of~~ position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to ~~a state in which the first density area of~~ the position at which the said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be closed up in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

7.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A control method of an image ~~pick~~ pickup apparatus capable of photographing with changing ~~over~~ between a first mode for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said apparatus comprising an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated~~[[.]]~~ by changing an aperture diameter, and a filter unit, having a single density ~~or a plurality of densities~~, for changing an amount of light input to said image pickup element by advancing and withdrawing said filter unit towards and from the aperture diameter; ~~and a unit for driving said iris mechanism and said filter unit independently~~, said method comprising:

a step of discriminating which of the first mode and the second mode is selected; and

a step of setting said filter unit in one of a state of covering the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a state of withdrawing from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, when the second mode is selected controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which said filter covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism.

14. (Currently Amended) A control method according to claim 13, wherein ~~of an~~ image pick apparatus capable of photographing with changing over a first mode for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action; said apparatus comprising an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated, by changing an aperture diameter; a filter unit, having a plurality of densities, for changing an amount of light input; and a unit for driving said iris mechanism and said filter unit independently; said method comprising:

a step of discriminating which of the first mode and the second mode is selected; and said controlling ~~step of performing~~ performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from a state in which a first density area of the position at which said filter unit withdraws from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to a state in which the

first density area of the position at which said filter unit covers all over the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism[[.]] when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be opened in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) A control method according to claim 13, wherein of an image pick apparatus capable of photographing with changing over a first mode for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said apparatus comprising an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light input to an image pickup element, by changing an aperture diameter, a filter unit, having a plurality of densities, for changing an amount of light input, and a unit for driving said iris mechanism and said filter unit independently, said method comprising:

a step of discriminating which of the first mode and the second mode is selected; and
said controlling step of performing performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from a state in which a first density area of the position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to a state in which the first density area of the position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter, when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be closed up in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

16.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) An image pickup apparatus including an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter and a filter unit having a plurality of densities, said image pickup apparatus comprising:

a control unit for controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including at least a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which a first density portion of said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and a position at which the first density portion of said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism.